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	Title 2011-12 Annual Statewide Fur Harvest and Value Survey	

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## INTRODUCTION

The Statewide Fur Harvest and Value Survey is conducted annually by the Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) to monitor the number and value of furbearer pelts purchased by licensed fur buyers.

## METHODS

Following the close of furbearer harvest seasons, licensed fur buyers are required to submit a report to the DFW listing the number and average value of furbearer pelts purchased.

The total number and value of pelts purchased are tabulated on a regional and statewide basis. This report summarizes data collected for Indiana's 2011-12 fur harvest season.



Figure 1. Indiana Fur Harvest Districts

## RESULTS

Eighty-two licensed fur buyers (98%) submitted reports following the 2011-12 fur harvest season. Furbearer pelts were purchased by fur buyers in all six fur-harvest regions (Figure 1).

Pelt purchases and total fur value were greatest in the northeast fur harvest region. Similarly, the northeastern region had the highest number of fur buyers (27), whereas the south central region had the fewest (6). Four fur buyers were nonresidents.

During the 2011-12 fur harvest season, fur buyers purchased a total of 180,388 pelts equaling a value of \$1,544,975.52, an increase of 20% and 35% from the 2010-11 season, respectively (Table 1).

Raccoon and muskrat accounted for 92% of total pelts purchased. The number of raccoon, opossum, striped skunk, and beaver pelts purchased in 2011-12 increased from the previous season, whereas the number of muskrat, red and gray fox, mink, coyote, and long-tailed weasel purchased decreased (Table 1).

The lowest reported price paid for a furbearer pelt in the 2011-12 season was \$0.33, opossum. The highest reported price paid for a furbearer pelt was \$40.18, red fox (Table 2).



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Table 1. Comparison of fur purchases and values between the 2010-11 and 2011-12 fur harvest seasons.

	No. Purchased 2010-11	No. Purchased 2011-12	% Change	Avg. Pelt Price 2010-11	Avg. Pelt Price 2011-12	% Change	Total Value 2010-11	Total Value 2011-12	% Change
Muskrat	67,467	50,253	-26%	\$6.99	\$8.25	18%	\$471,278.37	\$414,659.99	-12%
Raccoon	69,315	115,475	67%	\$7.81	\$8.39	7%	\$541,034.97	\$968,288.25	79%
Red Fox	1,228	949	-23%	\$14.69	\$20.07	37%	\$18,034.81	\$19,049.38	6%
Gray Fox	164	139	-15%	\$14.51	\$17.67	22%	\$2,379.16	\$2,456.54	3%
Mink	2,256	2,081	-8%	\$12.31	\$13.90	13%	\$27,770.39	\$28,932.35	4%
Opossum	2,439	3,100	27%	\$1.43	\$1.09	-24%	\$3,492.22	\$3,389.38	-3%
Striped Skunk	90	216	140%	\$2.74	\$2.70	-2%	\$246.99	\$584.17	137%
Beaver	2,370	3,066	29%	\$10.30	\$14.24	38%	\$24,412.83	\$43,661.68	79%
Coyote	5,372	5,105	-5%	\$10.49	\$12.52	19%	\$56,342.39	\$63,937.78	13%
Long-tailed Weasel	8	4	-50%	\$1.50	\$4.00	167%	\$12.00	\$16.00	33%
Total/Averages	150,709	180,388	20%	\$7.60	\$8.56	13%	\$1,145,004.13	\$1,544,975.52	35%

Table 2. Fur harvest data as reported by licensed Indiana fur buyers during the 2011-12 season.

Species	Number of Buyers	Number of Pelts	Minimum Price	Maximum Price	Average Price	Total Value
Muskrat	64	50,253	\$3.00	\$10.84	\$8.25	\$414,659.99
Raccoon	71	115,475	\$1.25	\$16.35	\$8.39	\$968,288.25
Red Fox	54	949	\$4.00	\$40.18	\$20.07	\$19,049.38
Gray Fox	22	139	\$4.50	\$30.00	\$17.67	\$2,456.54
Mink	60	2,081	\$5.00	\$25.00	\$13.90	\$28,932.35
Opossum	45	3,100	\$0.33	\$2.14	\$1.09	\$3,389.38
Skunk	20	216	\$1.00	\$8.00	\$2.70	\$584.17
Beaver	57	3,066	\$2.00	\$31.30	\$14.24	\$43,661.68
Coyote	61	5,105	\$3.00	\$40.00	\$12.52	\$63,937.78
Weasel	2	4	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$16.00
<b>Totals/Average</b>		<b>180,388.00</b>			<b>\$8.56</b>	<b>\$1,544,975.52</b>